

Front Page	Edit Page	Other Page
---------------	--------------	---------------

ARLINGTON, VA.
NORTHERN
VIRGINIA SUN

E. 17,476

JUN 24 1968



Dick West

The Lighter Side

Match Making By Punch Card

By DICK WEST

WASHINGTON, (UPI)—A couple of young New Yorkers who run one of those computer dating services came her this week to lay the groundwork for electronic romance in the nation's capital.

The punch card matchmakers, Robert Ross and Lewis Alttest, explained their system of "technical automated compatibility testing" to a group called "Parrots Without Partners."

PWP members are fathers and mothers who are either widowers and widows or have been divorced. They get together now and then for social purposes.

Ross said all of his previous experience had been in the field of matching up single people. He conceded that children would be a complicating factor. However, he expressed confidence that the computer would be able to work things out okay.

I'm not too sure about that. The computer might bring couples together scientifically, but unless it also is capable of baby-sitting there would still be a lot of problems.

To do the job right, the computer presumably would need to make certain that the offspring of the dating parents are likewise compatible.

Any machine that can do that without blowing a fuse is a truly marvelous instrument.

I learned quite accidentally that at least one member of Parrots Without Partners works at the Central Intelligence Agency.

Security regulations might hamper him in filling out the questionnaires that go into the computer.

Would the computer be able to penetrate a "cover story?" Would it match up the CIA man with a woman who likes James Bond movies?

It is not, however, the romantic aspects of the project that mainly interest me. I was more intrigued by Ross' statement that the computer could be used to arrange "scientifically balanced cocktail parties."

Only an out-and-out coward needs a computer to find female companionship in Washington. But balanced cocktail parties are one of the great needs of our times.

I suppose that the computer, among other things, would come up with a guest list with the correct proportion of heavy boozers to slight sippers. This would solve the problem of who is going to drive.

In case singing breaks out, as sometimes happens, the computer would have it arranged so that there wouldn't be 15 guests doing the tenor part and only one carrying the melody. As sometimes happens.

Best of all, it would prevent an imbalance between guests who arrive after the party's over and those who leave before it begins. This keeps down overcrowding under the table.